



PUBLIC UTILITIES

Department Description

The Department of Public Utilities protects surface water quality, promotes public health and safety and sustains economic development. The department is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater generated within the City of Columbus and 22 suburban communities, and those unincorporated areas of Franklin County. The department provides abundant, safe and reliable drinking water within the City of Columbus and 20 suburban communities.

The Department of Public Utilities also manages

stormwater to mitigate flooding and water quality impacts, educates the public on watershed stewardship and water conservation, and regulates industrial water pollution discharged to sewers.

Department Mission

To enhance the quality of life, now and into the future, for people living, working and raising families in central Ohio through the economic, efficient, and environmentally responsible stewardship of superior public utilities.

The department also supports fire suppression activities with reliable fire hydrants, provides and maintains street lights for vehicle safety and pedestrian security, and offers dependable electrical power at a competitive price.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015

Neighborhoods

The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue its neighborhood-focused stormwater program to mitigate flooding in residential areas. As part of this program, many localized stormwater capital improvements are planned for 2015, a list of which can be found in the capital summary section of this document.

The Division of Sewerage and Drainage is developing Blueprint Columbus to reduce sewer overflows and basement backups. Blueprint Columbus will focus on managing stormwater by utilizing green infrastructure such as rain gardens, pervious pavement, and trees to re-route water away from sanitary sewers, thus eliminating overflows. The program will strengthen neighborhoods by investing in aging infrastructure and building amenities such as sidewalks and community gardens. Initial planning areas include Clintonville, Bathman-Parsons, Fifth by Northwest, and Driving Park.

The department has implemented the Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP). Failing septic tanks in urban environments are a significant source of water pollution and Ohio EPA has mandated that many need to be eliminated. The city will therefore continue to extend sewer lines into areas within the city that do not currently have sewer service. The goal of STEP will be to provide assistance to citizens to offset or defer connection costs. The department will partner with Columbus Public Health in this endeavor.

Customer Service

Project Dry Basement will continue in 2015. This program covers the cost of approved backflow prevention devices for single and two-family homes prone to sewer backups during wet weather and from blockages.

The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue its comprehensive plan for Columbus' sewer system to mitigate the city's wet weather overflows and basement backup problems, which includes Blueprint Columbus. The division will also continue construction on the single largest capital project ever implemented by the city: a 4.5 mile long, 20-foot diameter tunnel through the downtown area known as OARS, short for the Olentangy-Scioto Interceptor Sewer Augmentation Relief Sewer.

The Division of Water will address the needs of the region's growing population and new water quality regulations through a series of improvements at all three drinking water treatment facilities. These projects, along with the Upground Reservoir in northwest Delaware County, will add capacity and reliability to the water supply.

The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue collaboration with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and Kurtz Brothers to promote the beneficial reuse of organic wastes, including (but not limited to) bio-solids, livestock manure and yard waste to produce clean, renewable energy.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015

Safety

The Division of Water will continue to design and construct projects for enhanced security in order to ensure a secure and safe drinking water supply.

The Division of Power will continue its Neighborhood Lighting Program, working with neighborhoods that apply for decorative street lights through the petition and assessment process.

Peak Performance

In 2015, the Division of Water will complete its water audit, to identify and quantify unmetered water. The division will also continue to replace meters and identify and repair leaks in an effort to reduce unaccounted water loss.

The department will continue to develop leadership among staff members through the Public Utilities Mentoring Program, or PUMP. The goal of PUMP is to encourage professional growth and development of highly motivated employees by facilitating mentoring relationships between them and experienced workers, thereby increasing efficiency in meeting department objectives.

Education

The Division of Water will continue the Children's Water Festival educational initiative. The 2014 event served approximately 600 middle school students during National Drinking Water Week in May.

The department will continue to promote the GreenSpot Program in 2015. This program inspires, educates, and recognizes residents, businesses, and community groups for committing to the conservation and protection of natural resources consistent with the Mayor's Get Green Columbus Initiative. Furthermore, the department will research and promote the use of green infrastructure alternatives.

In 2015, the department will continue to encourage responsible water conservation practices through partnering with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for its rain barrel and youth education programs.

2015 BUDGET NOTES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Sewer and Water Advisory Board (SWAB) will recommend to Columbus City Council increases to storm and sanitary sewer rates of one and three percent, respectively. A three percent increase is recommended for water rates. No increase is recommended for sanitary sewer or water system capacity charges. In addition:

- Principal and interest payments on outstanding debt are a large proportion of the budget for many of the divisions within the Department of Public Utilities. The budgeted amounts in each division represent payments due on current outstanding balances in combination with estimates on new debt yet to be issued along with projected variable interest rates using the latest information available.
- The 2015 budget includes \$15.1 million for personnel, which is a 45.5 percent increase over the 2014 budget. This is a result of the department moving 29 full-time and 2 part-time employees from the Sanitary Sewer Division to the Director's Office. These employees are part of the department's GIS staff. An additional full-time position was added to the Director's Office for 2015. The overall Director's Office budget of nearly \$18.7 million is 60.2 percent lower than the 2014 budget. This is due to a nearly \$33.6 million transfer from the sanitary sewer operating fund to the reserve fund in 2014.

WATER

The division's 2015 budget is nearly seven percent higher than in 2014. A portion of this increase reflects the continued implementation of an extensive capital improvement plan to increase the safety and capacity of our drinking water system. Debt service payments represent 43.7 percent of the water enterprise fund's \$197.2 million budget. In addition:

- The 2015 budget includes \$49.7 million for personnel, which provides funding for 535 full-time positions. These employees are responsible for the administration, distribution, maintenance, supply, safety, and customer service areas as part of providing the Columbus metropolitan area with clean and reliable drinking water.
- Water treatment chemicals are a large portion of the supplies budget, representing \$18 million in the 2015 budget.
- The budget also includes funds for continued maintenance of approximately 25,000 fire hydrants throughout the City of Columbus.

POWER

The division's largest expense in the 2015 budget is for the purchase of generated electric power for resale. The budget includes \$55.9 million for this expense, nearly 66 percent of the total budget. This amount is 4.5 percent less than expended in 2013 and only one percent more than it projects to spend in 2014, as the division was successful in securing favorable wholesale rates.

SANITARY SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The division's 2015 budget is nearly 14.3 percent more than in 2014. The most significant area of increase is in the area of debt service payments, reflecting the division's extensive capital improvement program. Debt service costs associated with maintaining and improving the city's

wastewater system comprise nearly 50 percent of the division's operating budget of \$266.2 million. In addition:

- The 2015 budget includes \$45.6 million for personnel, providing funding for 487 full-time positions. These employees are responsible for the administration, maintenance, safety and operation of the city's wastewater treatment plants and approximately 5,000 miles of sewer lines. As noted above, 29 full-time positions were transferred to the Director's Office for 2015.

STORMWATER

The division's 2015 budget is nearly nine percent higher than in 2014. As with the other divisions of this department, a significant portion of the operating budget is devoted to debt service payments. In 2015, debt service payments account for nearly 38 percent of the stormwater budget. In addition:

- The 2015 budget includes funds to reimburse the Department of Public Service for costs associated with street cleaning and snow and ice removal. These activities help to protect water quality and minimize the burden on the storm sewer system from ice, snow, and debris. In sum, these programs are expected to total \$7.49 million in 2015.

| Department Financial Summary by Area of Expense | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Fund | 2012 Actual | 2013 Actual | 2014 Budget | 2014 Projected | 2015 Proposed | |
| Department of Public Utilities | | | | | | |
| Director's Office | | | | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 8,609,628 | \$ 9,514,663 | \$ 11,899,091 | \$ 10,408,747 | \$ 15,143,247 | |
| Materials & Supplies | 90,571 | 113,278 | 148,026 | 147,403 | 350,202 | |
| Services | 1,354,155 | 2,240,457 | 2,700,590 | 2,672,420 | 3,086,743 | |
| Other | 3,647 | - | - | 33,573,531 | 71,550 | |
| Capital | - | 3,457 | 17,000 | 17,000 | - | |
| Director's Office Subtotal | 10,058,001 | 11,871,855 | 14,764,707 | 46,819,102 | 18,651,742 | |
| Water | | | | | | |
| Personnel | 44,695,149 | 44,844,666 | 47,930,352 | 45,066,410 | 49,744,101 | |
| Materials & Supplies | 23,089,284 | 21,658,179 | 22,318,782 | 22,291,228 | 22,648,656 | |
| Services | 32,595,193 | 34,096,065 | 36,541,670 | 35,026,066 | 35,925,202 | |
| Principal | 41,891,609 | 42,918,775 | 50,290,501 | 49,589,578 | 50,180,055 | |
| Other | 1,291,391 | 306,606 | 314,442 | 378,117 | 260,680 | |
| Capital | 1,335,024 | 1,219,830 | 2,386,100 | 2,386,100 | 2,432,400 | |
| Interest | 24,101,934 | 28,325,746 | 29,776,434 | 29,633,297 | 36,014,674 | |
| Transfers | 3,750 | - | - | - | - | |
| Water Subtotal | 169,003,334 | 173,369,866 | 189,558,281 | 184,370,796 | 197,205,768 | |
| Electricity | | | | | | |
| Personnel | 7,531,035 | 8,391,634 | 10,343,766 | 9,289,442 | 10,327,665 | |
| Materials & Supplies | 65,263,083 | 60,181,498 | 57,122,650 | 56,812,504 | 57,505,450 | |
| Services | 9,327,502 | 8,892,412 | 10,235,312 | 9,732,679 | 10,874,805 | |
| Principal | 3,778,066 | 3,418,675 | 2,968,075 | 2,968,075 | 2,934,727 | |
| Other | 3,848 | 32,623 | 50,550 | 246,595 | 50,550 | |
| Capital | 1,150,668 | 1,624,518 | 2,563,000 | 2,437,400 | 2,804,000 | |
| Interest | 879,442 | 638,992 | 530,988 | 518,397 | 379,192 | |
| Transfers | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Electricity Subtotal | 87,933,644 | 83,180,352 | 83,814,341 | 82,005,093 | 84,876,389 | |
| Sanitary | | | | | | |
| Personnel | 41,850,416 | 42,473,772 | 46,130,743 | 44,133,576 | 45,584,863 | |
| Materials & Supplies | 7,620,041 | 7,345,819 | 8,040,772 | 8,040,772 | 8,141,088 | |
| Services | 50,630,641 | 50,093,524 | 54,923,581 | 52,134,865 | 56,284,739 | |
| Principal | 66,972,580 | 68,876,786 | 69,967,956 | 69,324,541 | 84,204,085 | |
| Other | 10,455,555 | 257,154 | 292,621 | 175,938 | 298,409 | |
| Capital | 2,109,530 | 3,458,858 | 3,528,352 | 3,427,047 | 4,518,626 | |
| Interest | 37,749,857 | 36,005,732 | 38,103,914 | 36,896,991 | 47,474,003 | |
| Transfers | 18,469,453 | 18,434,258 | 19,430,188 | 18,668,771 | 19,689,463 | |
| Sanitary Subtotal | 235,858,073 | 226,945,902 | 240,418,127 | 232,802,501 | 266,195,276 | |
| Storm | | | | | | |
| Personnel | 1,320,055 | 1,292,560 | 1,670,096 | 1,367,435 | 1,731,523 | |
| Materials & Supplies | 24,441 | 19,370 | 17,163 | 15,197 | 25,514 | |
| Services | 18,385,563 | 19,300,204 | 20,335,380 | 19,632,664 | 22,140,699 | |
| Principal | 9,534,700 | 9,996,027 | 9,164,700 | 9,159,700 | 9,581,500 | |
| Other | 81,475 | 53,076 | 27,295 | 20,417 | 27,841 | |
| Capital | 43,550 | 28,775 | 100,906 | 100,000 | 50,000 | |
| Interest | 5,966,784 | 4,123,321 | 5,039,876 | 5,032,553 | 4,778,010 | |
| Storm Subtotal | 35,356,568 | 34,813,333 | 36,355,416 | 35,327,966 | 38,335,087 | |
| Department Total | \$ 538,209,620 | \$ 530,181,308 | \$ 564,910,872 | \$ 581,325,458 | \$ 605,264,262 | |

| Department Personnel Summary | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fund | FT/PT | 2012 Actual | 2013 Actual | 2014 Budgeted | 2015 Budgeted |
| Department of Public Utilities | | | | | |
| Director's Office | FT | 89 | 95 | 112 | 142 |
| | PT | 2 | 2 | 10 | 12 |
| Water | FT | 499 | 482 | 535 | 535 |
| | PT | 9 | 6 | 32 | 32 |
| Electricity | FT | 70 | 82 | 95 | 98 |
| | PT | 2 | 1 | 11 | 11 |
| Sanitary | FT | 466 | 467 | 516 | 487 |
| | PT | 3 | 3 | 16 | 14 |
| Storm | FT | 15 | 14 | 16 | 16 |
| | PT | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | | 1,155 | 1,152 | 1,345 | 1,349 |

| Operating Budget by Program | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Program | 2014 Budget | 2014 FTEs | 2015 Proposed | 2015 FTEs | |
| Utilities Administration | \$ 14,764,707 | 112 | \$ 18,651,742 | 142 | |
| Customer Service | 17,301,499 | 181 | 18,435,912 | 181 | |
| Water Administration | 98,947,376 | 10 | 102,303,325 | 5 | |
| Water Supply | 47,308,853 | 164 | 48,803,336 | 165 | |
| Water Distribution | 26,000,553 | 180 | 27,663,195 | 184 | |
| Sewer Administration | 156,994,437 | 10 | 180,654,833 | 10 | |
| Sanitary Sewer Engineering & Maint. | 38,928,901 | 270 | 37,601,190 | 239 | |
| Wastewater Treatment | 44,494,789 | 236 | 47,939,253 | 238 | |
| Stormwater Management | 36,355,416 | 16 | 38,335,087 | 16 | |
| Electricity Administration | 70,505,462 | 27 | 71,669,806 | 36 | |
| Electricity Distribution | 9,421,878 | 48 | 8,943,768 | 42 | |
| Street Lighting | 3,887,001 | 20 | 4,262,815 | 20 | |
| Department Total | \$ 564,910,872 | 1,274 | \$ 605,264,262 | 1,278 | |

For additional financial information related to the Department of Public Utilities, please refer to the water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and electricity operating fund summaries contained within the Enterprise Funds section. Program descriptions begin on the following page.



2015 PROGRAM GUIDE

UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION

To provide administrative support services for the Department of Public Utilities.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

To support managers of the other divisions by providing timely and accurate information related to the core business functions of the utility for daily operational decisions and long term strategic planning.

WATER ADMINISTRATION

To provide administrative support services for the Division of Water.

WATER SUPPLY

To maintain an adequate quantity and quality of raw and finished water for the citizens of Columbus.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

To ensure the residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area have an uninterrupted distribution of safe, reliable water, and that the infrastructure of the utility is maintained.

SEWER ADMINISTRATION

To provide administrative support services for the Division of Sewers and Drains.

SANITARY SEWER ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE

To ensure the integrity and maintenance of the existing sewer infrastructure and to expand this infrastructure to serve the Columbus Metropolitan Area without detriment to the community.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

To promote the health and safety of residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area through the effective treatment of wastewater.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To provide effective stormwater collection services to the community within the corporate limits of Columbus.

ELECTRICITY ADMINISTRATION

To support the operations of the Division of Electricity.

ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that customers receive safe and reliable electric power and that neighborhoods receive modern street lighting.

STREET LIGHTING

To promote public safety through the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of an efficient and reliable street lighting system.

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